



**NATIONAL  
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**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

January Livestock Slaughter  
Honey Production  
Prices Received By Farmers  
U.S. Farm & Wage Rates

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during January totaled 0.6 million pounds, down 33 percent from December and 40 percent below the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during January, down 200 head from December and 500 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 793 pounds, down 120 pounds from the previous month and 108 pounds below January 2005. Total live weight, at 465,000 pounds, was 38 percent below the previous month and 51 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during January totaled 300 head, down 100 head from December and down 300 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 494 pounds, down 5 pounds from December, but up 19 pounds from the previous year. Total live weight, at 165,000 pounds, was down 18 percent from December and 44 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during January totaled 1,300 head, down 1,100 head from the previous month and 400 head below January 2005. Average live weight was 212 pounds, up 48 pounds from December and 22 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 280,000 pounds, 30 percent below December and 14 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during January was 100 head, the same as December and the previous year. Live weight averaged 89 pounds, up 5 pounds from the previous month and 4 pounds above the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 3.65 billion pounds produced in January 2005.

January 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 5 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 12.5 million pounds, 6 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 55,700 head, down 18 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was 39 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.92 million head, 5 percent above January 2005. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 273 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.2 million pounds, was up 12 percent from January 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from January a year ago.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana			United States	
	December	January		January	
	2005	2005	2006	2005	2006
	-----Thousand head-----			-----Thousand head-----	
Cattle	0.8	1.1	0.6	2,527.8	2,641.7
Calves	0.4	0.6	0.3	68.0	55.7
Hogs	2.4	1.7	1.3	8,480.0	8,915.7
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	208.5	223.7
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----	
Cattle	755	948	465	3,189,651	3,385,304
Calves	201	295	165	22,342	20,463
Hogs	401	325	280	2,288,913	2,435,864
Sheep & Lambs	7	9	7	28,760	32,236
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----			-----Average live weight, pounds-----	
Cattle	913	901	793	1,262	1,281
Calves	499	475	494	329	368
Hogs	164	190	212	270	273
Sheep & Lambs	84	85	89	138	144
	-----Million pounds-----			-----Million pounds-----	
Red Meat	0.9	1.0	0.6	3,648.0	3,890.4

### Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield and Production<sup>1</sup>

Selected States	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	-----1,000 Colonies-----		-----Pounds-----		-----1,000 Pounds-----	
Alabama	12	13	87	66	1,044	858
Arkansas	40	36	57	69	2,280	2,484
Georgia	63	59	49	49	3,087	2,891
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,395</b>
Mississippi	18	16	65	80	1,170	1,280
Texas	116	84	76	71	8,816	5,964
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>183,582</b>	<b>174,643</b>

### Honey: Stocks, Price and Values<sup>1</sup>

Selected States	Stocks, December 15 <sup>2</sup>		Average Price Per Pound <sup>3</sup>		Value of Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----Cents-----		-----1,000 Dollars-----	
Alabama	282	266	141	128	1,472	1,098
Arkansas	388	571	86	95	1,961	2,360
Georgia	648	434	119	84	3,674	2,428
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>2,410</b>
Mississippi	421	346	79	66	924	845
Texas	1,411	954	95	85	8,375	5,069
<b>United States</b>	<b>61,222</b>	<b>62,406</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>196,259</b>	<b>157,795</b>

<sup>1</sup> For producers with 5 or more colonies.

<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers.

<sup>3</sup> Prices weighted by sales.

### Louisiana Honey Production

Honey production from producers with five or more hives in Louisiana during 2005 totaled 3.40 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. The number of colonies, at 35,000, is unchanged from 2004. Honey stocks on December 15, 2005, amounted to 611,000 pounds, up 371,000 pounds from 2004.

The average price received for honey sold during 2005 was 71 cents per pound, down 7 cents from 2004. The value of the 2005 honey crop was 2.41 million dollars, down 10 percent from the previous year.

### United States Honey Production Down 5 Percent

Honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where the honey was produced; therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased during 2005 to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. Honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2005 were lower than the previous year for all color class totals.

## Average Prices Received by Farmers: January 2006

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	February 2005	January 2006	February <sup>1</sup> 2006	February 2005	January 2006	February <sup>1</sup> 2006
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.59	6.03	6.00	5.42	5.88	5.68
Rice, per cwt	7.63	7.63	7.97	6.90	7.67	7.73
Upland cotton, per pound	.404	.492	.491 <sup>2</sup>	.383	.486	.483 <sup>2</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.20	91.20	95.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	66.30	64.00	66.10	88.80	95.10	92.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	103.00	107.00	110.00	93.10	102.00	98.10
Cows, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	52.00	45.50	49.00	52.50	47.30	48.50
Calves, per cwt	123.00	128.00	136.00	129.00	141.00	142.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.430	.380	.380
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.551	.610	.495
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.50	14.50	13.80

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

<sup>3</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>4</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available.

### February Farm Prices Received Index Unchanged from Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from January. The Crop Index is up 5 points but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, wheat, hay and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, milk and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, milk, broilers and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 1 point from February 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 2 points from last month and decreased 2 points from February 2005.

### Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 146 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from January but 9 points above February 2005. Lower prices in February for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, LP gas and herbicides offset higher prices for complete feeds, hay & forages, self-propelled machinery and feed supplements.

## Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Items	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	January 2005	October 2005	January 2006	January 2005	October 2005 <sup>2</sup>	January 2006
	-----Thousand workers-----			-----Thousand workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>796</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	185	294	180
<b>Hired Workers</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>616</b>
150 Days or More	16	24	18	494	621	513
149 Days or More	2	10	7	95	221	103
	-----Per week-----			-----Per week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>38.2</b>
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>8.68</b>	<b>9.78</b>	<b>9.61</b>	<b>10.11</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	9.52	7.04	7.90	8.71	8.90	9.15
Livestock	7.63	7.95	8.40	9.20	9.15	9.25

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

---Data not published

### United States Farm Labor

There were 796,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year.

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